

Message Text

SECRET

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13

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 042353

P 260546Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 810

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T MUSCAT 109

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, MU, US

SUBJECT: TOW MISSILES: MTT ROLE

REF: STATE 15846

1. IN CONVERSATION BETWEEN EMBOFF AND COMMANDER OF
NORTHERN OMAN REGIMENT, COLONEL HEAD, LATTER REVEALED
THAT DECISION TO EXCLUDE BRITISH FROM TOW TRAINING WAS MADE
WITHIN OMANI DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT. MTT MEMBERS CAME TO
EMBASSY AFTERNOON OF JAN. 25 AND CONFIRMED THIS VERSION.
UNFORTUNATELY, THERE ARE WIDER APPLICATIONS; JORDANIAN CAP-
TAIN WHO HAD ACTED AS INTERPRETER WAS PULLED OFF TRAINING
MISSION YESTERDAY. SUBSEQUENTLY, ENTIRE OPERATION CAME TO
A HALT SINE DIE WHEN TWO OF FOUR TRAINEES (BALUCHIS CARRYING
PAKISTANI PASSPORTS) WERE WITHDRAWN. MTT GIVEN ASSURANCES
THAT OMANI REPLACEMENTS (INCLUDING AN INTERPRETER) WILL
BE ASSIGNED, AND HOPEFULLY TRAINING HIATUS WILL BE SHORT.

2. TRAINING MISSION FURTHER STYMIED BY SAF FAILURE, THUS
FAR, TO PROVIDE 24-VOLT ELECTRICAL SYSTEM REQUIRED TO
MONITOR SIMULATED FIRING. MTT FEELS THAT THIS IS MINOR
LOGISTICS PROBLEM RATHER THAN ANY ATTEMPT DELIBERATELY TO
HAMPER TRAINING.

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3. FINALLY, LATEST INFORMATION IS THAT FOLLOW-UP TRAINING
LIKELY TO TAKE PLACE AT SUR RATHE THAN IN DHOFAR. EMBASSY
AGREES WITH THRUST OF PARA (3) OF REFTTEL; THOSE MISGIVINGS
WOULD NOT APPLY TO SUR LOCATION.
WOLLE

SECRET

NNN

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